

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

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R 051440Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K.(N.I.)

SUBJECT: SECURITY ROUNDUP: CEASEFIRE YEAR SEES MORE ULSTER
DEAD THAN 1974

REF: BELFAST 403

1. 1975, THE YEAR OF THE PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE, ENDED
WITH 245 KILLED IN ULSTER BY TERRORIST ACTION. THIS IS
29 MORE THAN WERE KILLED IN 1974 AND IS THE THIRD BLOODIEST YEAR
(AFTER 1972 AND 1973) SINCE "TROUBLES" BEGAN IN 1969.

SEVENTY-FOUR WERE KILLED BY BOMBS AND 142 (OR TWENTY MORE THAN
IN 1972) IN ASSASSINATIONS. TOTAL OF CIVILIAN DEATHS AND
WOUNDINGS ROSE WHILE TOTAL CASUALTIES OF SECURITY FORCES FELL.
THERE WAS AN AVERAGE ONE BOMB PER DAY FOR TOTAL OF 365 IN
1974, ONLY ABOUT HALF THE 669 IN 1974. IN GENERAL PROVISIONAL IRA
CEASEFIRE ACCOUNTABLE FOR DECLINE IN BOMBINGS AND ATTACKS ON
SECURITY FORCES WHILE SECTARIAN ATTACKS AND THOSE MOTIVATED BY
FACTIONAL FEUDS INCREASED.

2. PROVISIONAL IRA BELFAST BRIGADE IN NEW YEARS MESSAGE
THREATENED RENEWED OFFENSIVE UNLESS BRITISH DECLARED INTENT TO
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WITHDRAW. OFFENSIVE APPEARS TO HAVE STARTED WITH NO-WARNING

BOMBING PUB IN GILFORD, COUNTY DOWN DECEMBER 31 CLAIMED BY "PEOPLES REPUBLICAN ARMY," PROXY BOMB AT KEADY POLICE STATION AND DESTRUCTION THREE DOWNTOWN BELFAST STORES BY BOMBS IN COORDINATED ATTACK JANUARY 2. BELFAST BOMBS WERE OF NEW TYPE IN THAT EXPLOSIVES COMBINED WITH GASOLINE. THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT A RELEASED DETAINEE IS THE EXPERT ON THIS BOMB. FIVE MALE CATHOLICS SHOT AND KILLED AT TWO FARMS COUNTY ARMAGH EVENING JAN 4 IN WHAT MAY BE PROTESTANT TERRORIST REPRISAL FOR GILFORD PUB BOMBING. SO FAR IN 1976 SIX DEAD AND MORE THAN FORTY INJURED IN BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS.

3. DELEGATION FROM UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) INCLUDING HARRY WEST AND REV. IAN APISLEY MET WITH POLICE AUTHORITY LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN. UUUC EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR FLANAGAN AND PROTESTED ABOUT HIS "DISMISSAL" (REFTEL). PAISLEY POINTED OUT RETENTION FLANAGAN SINGLE ISSUE ON WHICH ALL ULSTER POLITICAL GROUPS AGREED. REPORTING OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUAL THAT FLANAGAN WOULD BE KEPT ON.

SPICER

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